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**BALTIMORE MAN SENTENCED TO 17 YEARS
FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF A FIREARM**

BALTIMORE, Maryland - United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein announces that today U.S. District Judge Richard D. Bennett sentenced Alonzo Briscoe, age 26, of Baltimore to 17 years in prison for being a felon in possession of a firearm. Judge Bennett found that Briscoe was an armed career criminal based on his previous convictions for robbery, attempted murder, possession of a handgun and conspiracy to distribute heroin.

Briscoe was convicted by a federal jury on December 7, 2005. The evidence presented at trial showed that on December 8, 2004, Briscoe was standing on the 300 block of South Stricker Street, in Baltimore City, when a marked Baltimore City police car entered the block. The police car stopped behind a double-parked car near where Briscoe was standing. The officers got out of the police car to ask the driver of the double-parked car to move along. As the first officer emerged from the car, he noticed that Briscoe moved his hand under his jacket and the officer was able to see a firearm partly exposed in Briscoe's waistband area. The officer drew his weapon and called out to Briscoe. At the same time, two other officers got out of the car. Faced with the officers, Briscoe fled away from the crowd and into a vacant lot. As Briscoe ran through the lot, the second officer followed and saw Briscoe holding the firearm and then toss the weapon into the lot. The chase continued until Briscoe was caught and arrested. The officers retrieved the firearm in the vacant lot. The weapon, a .32 caliber Colt handgun, was loaded and had a round in the chamber.

United States Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein thanked the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Baltimore City Police Department for their investigation in this case. Mr. Rosenstein also praised Assistant United States Attorney Michael C. Hanlon, who prosecuted the case.